

August 16, 2012

Mr. Zaitz,

I am in receipt of your certified letter dated August 9, 2012 and will respond as follows:

I am in no way considering this matter on any level other than professionally and with respect for all positions during this period of complete and total disagreement and opposing opinions. This is not personal and will not be personal unless forced into that situation, which I believe can be avoided. Please do not construe anything stated as a direct slight on your position and or competence in that position, I am simply opposed to this type of regulatory revenue and taxation without the customary and guaranteed Constitutional issues being considered such as representation and validity of the requirement.

I first wrote a letter some time ago and lodged several complaints opposing your actions to my elected representatives and received a surprising response and non-committed support, which is no surprise.

I have yet to respond to your letter and subsequent submission of complete and total misrepresented photographs depicted this business as something other than what it is. Your depiction of Emerald Bay Houseboats being a poster child for environmental hazards and cause for such regulations

mandatory fees is not only grossly inaccurate but offensive as well. I will correct that lack of response with this correspondence.

It is important that I make myself perfectly clear on my stand against the fees and/or fines you are requiring me to pay. Such as:

- 1) I can not afford to pay this fee. I have managed to barely survive this economy and to go after small business, who already are burdened with the lack of governmental restraint in spending and mismanagement of this business we call the U.S.A. I have no room for this type of fee/fine in my already impossible budget. I have gone from 32 employees down to 6 and this will cause an undue hardship on an already over-taxed and heavily debted business.
- 2) This fee/tax benefits me or my business in no way shape or form. As written in previous letters, there is nothing anyone can do about the normal and natural process of rainfall and to think that it can be altered, repaired, avoided or otherwise changed is ludicrous, but typical of government tax and spend policy. To pay fines/fees/taxes to no end but justifying another government agency is the last thing I want to be a party to.
- 3) The "annual fee" depicts nothing about the use and/or deployment of these fees. There has to be some reason and mutual understanding of what I am expected to pay and to what it actually goes toward other than what is stated in #2.
- 4) The fact that I have had this business for over 19 years and have yet (until now) heard of such a fee/fine is incredible. To be told that "you have been under the radar" is equally incredible as this building is the largest on Hwy 70 frontage and visible to all that bother to look. The reasons of not enough manpower is again, inexcusable, as it causes one to believe that the overall agency is ineffective and incompetent in it's mission, whatever that is.

5) Ownership and responsibility of Emerald Bay is that of myself only. To correspond to my daughter, Kasie Leroux is not only inaccurate but she has nothing whatsoever to do with this business and/or it's financial responsibility, or lack thereof.

I will now respond to the photos as mentioned above taken on Febuary 16,2012.

Photo 1:

Parking lot

Photo 2:

Storm drain in middle of parking lot in the complex that has been here for 50 years as a lumber company.

Photo 3:

Outside storage of landfill material and a container used for paint storage.

Photo 4:

Rear area for storage of items to be taken to the landfill

Photo 5:

An abandoned diesel fuel tank in it's pan

Photo 6:

Again, abandoned diesel tank in pan and 55 gal. drums.

Photo 7 & 8:

Still abandoned tank with cap removed to drain rain water collected. Stains on pavement are old. The tank has been there for many years.

Photo 9 & 10:

This storm drain has been in place for over 50 years to my knowledge, it is approx 70 yards from the rear area of the shop and has never been exposed to any other material than that which is from the sky.

Photo 11, 12, 13:

These are exactly what they are depicted to be, 55 gal drums of empty toilet chemical and a bio-degradable cleaner, fluid on top of drum is rain water.

Photo 14:

Yes, empty, abandoned and useless propane tanks.

Photo 15:

Empty fuel tanks, empty drum and metal railing.

Photo 16:

Scrap material stored for future transport to recycler, sealed paint containers.

Photo 17:

Paint storage container with stains on pavement that have been there for many years.

Photo 18:

Yes, lockable storage containers.

Photo 19:

Yes, a garden hose with a puddle from either rain or from washing cars.

Photo 20:

A pavement stain from many years ago.

Photo 21 & 22:

Coating pontoons is done as part of our normal business practice, there is no spillage and no sign of it.

Photo 23:

That is NOT a waste oil spill, it is a wet spot from someone emptying a wash bucket

Photo 24& 25: Houseboats are serviced here, R.V.s are parked here. There is no indication of servicing RV's, and there is sand on the pavement at times.

Photo 26:

Waste oil from the day and ready for proper disposal.

Photo 27:

There are numerous stains and splotches all over the pavement and have been there for unknown amount of time.

Photo 28:

A sand blast rig that is stored and has not been operable in 5 years.

Photo 29:

A water tub used for running drives out of water, waste oil leak was cleaned.

Photo 30:

55 gallon drums properly labeled and awaiting pick up from waste oil vendor, stored outside under cover and sealed. The wash-down hose out always, in case of fire.

Photo 30 & 31 & 32:

All drums are sealed and/or empty, the water collects on top from rain, still awaiting proper disposal.

Photo 33:

Yes, active welding.

Photo 34:

Yes, waste from welding/fabrication that has been swept up but not picked as yet, the stains on the pavement are dry and old.

Photo 35 & 36

Yes, accurately depicted.

In all of these photographs, it can be depicted in many ways or simply used to show the worst conditions anywhere. If that was your intention, then so be it, but it is inaccurate and misrepresents our work and how we clean up after it. You will notice the shop and all other areas are clean as that is how we keep it. We do not spill oil on the ground without cleaning it up, nor do we wash it down the drains. I suppose any one can make a case to justify the position, but here is not the place and/or time to do it. There are many businesses I suspect are in violation and to pick this one out of all the others is wrong minded and unfair.

I would encourage you to look elsewhere for funding. I intend on fighting this fee with every bit of my existence as I believe it to be wrong and a worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,

William Hill

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